L316/7

TWO General Epistles;

OR,

The BREATHINGS of LOVE, uttered from the *pure Life*, to the whole Flock of God in *England*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, and all other places wherſoever this ſhall come, *Greeting*.

Being a *Wholeſome* EXHORTATION, tending to the Gathering, Uniting, and Eſtabliſhing of all the Faithful every-where, into that which is Eternal.

Given forth by that faithful Servant of God, who, though he hath lately laid down the Earthly Body, yet he lives with his Maker for ever.

EDVVARD BURROUGH.

LONDON, Printed for *R. Wilſon*, 1663.

The first General Epistle, &c.

FOrasmuch as in these our days, the God of Truth hath made manifest his Name and Truth in the hearts of his People, and hath gathered the minds of thousands into it, to worship him in the Spirit and in the Truth, in which he is accepted; and of this Truth (which is but *one*, and there is not another) are we made Witnesses and Ministers of, and have the Testimony in our selves that we are of God, and are a good savour unto him, in them that believe, and in them that perish; and we have the Testimony, *That he that is of God heareth us*, and we know the whole world lies in wickedness; and who are in the Truth, in the Light, and in the Life, have fellowship one with another, in Holiness and Righteousness, in that which comprehends the world, and condemns all the works thereof, which are evil; and this Truth, Worship and Fellowship stands in Christ Jesus the *second Adam*, whose Kingdom and Rule is not of this world, but from Heaven, who according to his Promise, in his Counsel hath made known his Power, to the raising up a Righteous Branch, a Royal Priesthood, and Peculiar People, zealous of his Name, to shew forth his Praise and Glory, in Justness and Righteousness, in Love, Mercy and Peace, and works of Purity, having our Conversation in Heaven; and since that day of the manifestation of this Truth of the Gospel of Peace and Salvation, which is the same now as was in the beginning, which is in Christ Jesus the Light of the world, who is the same yesterday, to day, and for ever, and changeth not; I say, since that very day hath the Lord prospered his Truth, to the renewing of many into his Image and Likeness, and to the turning of many from darkness to Light, and from Satan's power to God, by the mouth of his

Miniſters, and through great ſufferings, and tribulations, oppreſſions, afflictions, and labours, hath the Lord honoured his Name and his Truth in Nations, and given it a praiſe among all that fear him, and hath honoured it, and exalted it in the ſight of the Heathen, to the confounding of the wiſe and mighty, and to the bringing out of the captivity of darkneſs, ſin and death, wherein in times paſt all have walked, while ſtrangers from the Life of God, ſo that thouſands who have received the Truth, are eſtabliſhed in it, and cannot be moved nor ſhaken, but are built upon the ſure Foundation, their Faith ſtanding in the Power of God, with whom the Arm and Preſence of the Lord God is, defending and preſerving continually; and unto ſuch the Truth is precious, and the Way of the Lord, his Name, and Honour is dear, yea, more than life or liberty, or any other thing which paſſeth away; who for the Truths ſake, as it is in Chriſt Jeſus, do daily give up themſelves to ſuffering, and to reproach (for well-doing, and not for evil) and love not life unto death, that the Lord God and his Name and Truth may be honoured; ſo that in that Truth which is received and learned of the Father, daily do we walk, in all purity and holineſs of life, anſwering the Mercy and Love of the Lord, in the exerciſe of a pure Conſcience both towards God and man, in patience, long-ſuffering and wiſdom towards all, to the putting to ſilence of gainſayers, rendring love and mercy towards our Perſecutors, and are ſet in our hearts to fulfill the Will of God in all things: And now whereas (that the Scripture may be fulfilled) ſome may and have denied the Truth, which once was received and loved, to the making ſhipwrack of Faith and of a good Conſcience, abuſing the Mercy and Grace of God which to them appeared, and follow the counſel of their own hearts, and not of the Lord; having loſt the feeling of the Spirit of the Father, and are and may be ſeparated from us (in the ſelf-ſeparation) through an evil heart of unbelief, that it may be made manifeſt they are not of us, though they ariſe from among us, and may by diſorderly walking contrary to the Truth, cauſe the Truth to

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be evil ſpoken of, giving occaſion thereby to the Enemies of God to blaſpheme his Name and Truth in the Earth, and may be a ſtumbling to the weak, and an offence to the Way of the Lord before the ſimple, thorow their Diſorders and Confuſions, raiſing the rage of the Wicked againſt the Lambs of Chriſt, being not led in the Wiſdom of God, but in Confuſions, taking liberty to their own hearts deſire, fulfilling the will thereof, without the Fear of God, above the Croſs of Chriſt, in the Nature uncrucified, and ſpeaking high words in the preſumption, and not in the Light and Power of God, and acting in the vanity of the mind (in the pretence of Truth and the moving of the Spirit) ſuch things as Truth and the Children of it, who are guided with the Spirit, cannot juſtifie, but is judged, and denied, and caſt out from among the Children of Light, who walk in the Truth, and do try the ſpirits whether they be of God. Therefore in the Fear of the Lord God this is written, to go abroad among Friends and others, to inform and ſhew unto all, that the Truth, and we that are in it, Miniſters of it, do ſtand clear from all ſuch, who act and ſpeak out of the Truth, and contrary to it, in the diſorder and confuſion, and not in the Fear and Counſel of God; and with the Truth ſuch are judged, and denied, and fellowſhip with them we have not, nor their works do approve; though ſuch once owned us, and were convinced of the Truth, and received the Seed of the Kingdom into the unprofitable ground, yet being ſeparated from us, and gone out from the Truth, are not ſubject to it and its Government, but are untuly and diſorderly; We and the Truth do ſuch deny, and the ſpirit that rules them, being not the Spirit of Chriſt Jeſus; and ſuch have done evil againſt their own ſouls, and againſt God, and are troublers of the righteous Seed, and have and do diſhonour the Lord and his Truth, in the ſight of the Heathen, cauſing the *right Way* to be reviled, and reproached, and evil ſpoken of, through the offence by them; to the making ſad the hearts of ſome, whom God hath not made ſad; and even more eſpecially, in that they pretend to the *Truth* in their words and works,

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and professes to be in it, yet secretly condemning, and openly reviling the Ministers of Righteousness, which God hath blessed, and doth daily bless with his Eternal Power, to the turning many unto God, and to the strengthening of the weak and feeble, which we with many do witness, to be the Ministers of Life and Reconciliation, and there is no other, and are established in it, and cannot be moved by the temptations of the Devil, though the Wicked-one may revile for a moment, to winnow some, and to try them, and to draw the hearts and minds of others into a snare, out from the obedience to Christ Jesus, which do become mockers, and despisers and subverters of the simplicity of the Gospel of Peace, and of the Ministers and Ministry thereof, which is *the Power of God unto Salvation, and there is no other*, though some harden their hearts through unbelief, and blind the eye till they be past feeling, through rebellion against the *Truth*, which they hold *in unrighteousness*, and *not in the Power of God*, having made the *offence of the Cross to cease*, yet boasting in the liberty of Christ while they are unmortified, having run from the Judgment, and not truly come thorow it, in the finishing of Condemnation; and that spirit that goes out of the Cross is subverted, and seeks to subvert others from the Truth *as it is in Jesus*, and that spirit is denied fellowship with, though it have conformity in the hypocrisie: Wherefore this is the Word of the Lord God unto you, that erre after that spirit, Be awakened, be awakened, remember and repent, and come to your first work, to that which condemns you, lest the Lord by his Hand of Wrath and Judgement upon you, make you an example of Misery and Destruction, to all that shall hereafter deny the Lord and his Truth. Hear and consider, to the Light in you all I speak; have you another *Truth* than that which hath been known and declared from the beginning? is there any other way to *Life*, than which we have been Witnesses of, who have not handled the Word of God deceitfully among you, nor sought yours, but you, nor preached *our selves*, but *Jesus Christ*? and hereof we have the Witness in our Consciences, in the holy Ghost.

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And is there any other Salvation than that which God hath manifested, which is *Christ Jesus the Light of the World*? Be awakened and consider; Wherefore then do you separate your selves disorderly, and resist the Word of Life, which once begot you towards the Lord? Consider what you are doing, and whither you are walking, the end of your way is perdition, and that is accursed which preacheth another Gospel; how do you dishonour the Lord in the sight of the Heathen, before whom you discover your nakedness, and your shame doth appear, having put off and cast aside your armour and weapon of *Truth*, whereby you might have been defended; but scorners and fools take occasion through your disorders and confusions, to blaspheme the Name of the Lord, and it is through you: Oh be stirred up and consider, and search your hearts, and come to the tryal, ye that vex the Lord's Soul and grieve his Spirit, lest it cease to strive with you, and you be wholly given up to fulfill wickedness, till there be no place nor time of repentance found. And this is a Warning to you all in the presence of the living God, that you may return to your first love, to fear before the Lord, and to walk in his *Truth*, if there may be mercy, and to fulfill his *Will*, which is the Light which you are lighted withall by *Christ Jesus*, who is the Lamb of God, *the Way*, *the Truth*, and *the Life*, the *author and finisher of Faith*, and *there is not another*; and know this, *you that deny Him*, who is given, yea unto you all, *he will deny you before his Father*; and of all your blood I am clear thus far, whether you resist or receive, who am the lover of your souls, sometimes loved of you, while you were lovers of the *Truth*; and am now a Witness for the Lord and his *Truth*, and against that spirit which leads you in the rebellion against the Government of *Christ*, which is *Order and Peace*, out of which you have erred, to the piercing of your own souls; and though you now exalt your selves against me, and the *Truth*, and boast your selves as though you reigned, yet in the Day of the Lord, shall the Light in you all, which now is darkened, bear witness to me, and of my faithfulness in reproving you; and the *Truth* is for

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ever dear to me, and my ſoul delights no leſs in it, though you rebel againſt it, in the heady, exalted, preſumptuous, high, wilful ſpirit, which is not ſubject to the Government nor Authority of the Miniſtry of Chriſt; but *Truth* is over you all, and the *Mountain* of the Lord is eſtabliſhed above you all, and all your words, and works, and boaſtings, and feignedneſs, and diſorder, are denied, and in them we have not fellowſhip, but the contrary; and do in the Authority of the Lord, even by the ſame Authority which hath begotten us unto God, and called us, and carried us in his Work unto this day, deny you all, in that ground and ſtate wherein you ſtand, till repentance and returning from whence you are fallen, to the Light which Chriſt hath lighted you withal.

And all faithful Friends, this is the Word of the Lord God to you; Hear and fear, walk in the *Truth* which ye have heard, and learned, and received of the Father, in it dwell and live, and know there is no other than that which is made manifeſt, which is ſure to you all, and cannot deceive nor be deceived; and be not ſhaken in mind nor troubled, though ſome deny the Lord, but let their fall be a warning to you, to be more watchful, to be kept to the Lord, leſt you be tempted: and dwell in the *Mountain of Holineſs*, which no Beaſt can touch, where is a hiding-place to preſerve you in the time of tryal; and I charge you all in the preſence of the living God of Life, let your minds be ſetled, and hearts ſtayed in the *Truth*, which is the Foundation of God, and know the Armour of God to gird you up to God, where no offence is taken againſt Chriſt, nor againſt the way of *Truth*, but the Power of God doth remove that which would be offended, and tramples upon that which gives the offence, and in this you will be preſerved until the day of Salvation; and be aware of that ſpirit which boaſts above the meaſure, and of that which makes the offence of the Croſs to ceaſe, for there hardneſs of heart and unbelief enters, and ſo another is followed than the Light, and another joyned to than Chriſt Jeſus, and there is the way to perdition; who go from the *Light within* them, they deny God and his Truth, and

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follow the imaginations of the foolish heart, and run in rashness and in the frowardness, and that ground receives the unclean spirit in again, with seven worse, *and the latter end is worse than the beginning*; and this *Truth* doth not change, which is the begotten of the Father, but is *the same for ever*: So in it all be faithful and fruitful to the Father in your places and callings, shewing forth in all wisdom and pure conversation among your enemies, to the putting them to silence when they speak evil of you; and be *Examples of Holiness* one to another, that the Lord God may dwell among you, and may never have cause to withhold his Presence from you, which is *Life* and *Peace*, and *Rest for ever*: and believe not every spirit, but dwell in that which discerns spirits; and if any say, *Lo here*, or *Lo there is Christ*, go not after them without you, for you have not been so taught; but know the *Christ of God*, the *Lamb of God within you*, and follow him, and obey his Voice; and be established all of you, on this *sure Foundation*, whom God hath laid, & no man can lay any other, and if you build thereon and thereby, you shall never suffer loss, but your work shall abide the fire, and in the Father's house your bread you shall receive, and never shall hunger nor thirst, but the Life will be refreshed and encreased daily, and your Lamp will alwayes shine, and you shall never be darkned, nor stumble; for that which stumbles is out of the *Truth*, and the ground stands to receive the seed of Satan, who is a devourer of the simplicity, and the bettayer from the *Truth*; Therefore I charge you all in the presence of the living God, that you hold fast the Faith and Hope which you have received through the Gospel, that you may never be moved from the Grace of God, and from the Love that hath abounded in you, but may be found watching in the door, with your Light shining when the Bridegroom cometh; and, *behold he cometh quickly, and his Reward is with him; blessed are they that tarry for him.*

This is the Testimony of my Love unto all the Seed of God, who am *as a deceiver, and yet true, as not known, and yet well known unto the Lord.*

THE Second GENERAL EPISTLE, to all the SAINTS whom God hath called.

TO all the Children of Light every-where, who fear and love the Lord, who are begotten of God, and unto whom he is known in the Spirit and in the Truth; this is a Testimony of the Father's Love unto you. Grace, Mercy, and Peace from him that liveth for ever. The God of Light and Life be multiplied in you all, that you may daily be renewed in strength, and girded with Truth, and armed with the whole Armour of God, and may be kept by his Power until the day of Salvation, to walk in the Government and subjection to Jesus Christ, witnessing the Power and Presence of God in you, and amongst you, giving you power to fulfil his Will in all things; and that in all Righteousness, and out of all Evil you may be led, and preserved unto the end, and in the end, to shew forth the praises of God in this Generation, as a People called of him, and redeemed by him for his Glories sake; even so *Amen*, and *Amen*.

Dearly Beloved, be not ignorant, but this know, This is the Message which came unto you, which is true and faithful, and everlasting, *That the true God is Light, and in him is no darkness at all*; and this is the Message of Peace and Reconciliation, and of Glad-tydings unto all that have sought the Lord, which we received of him, and you have heard, and there is not another to be declared; and all that have received it, are gathered up to God, and are in Covenant with him, and one with another, and are in that which reconcileth

concileth and joyneth unto Christ Jesus, the Husband and second *Adam*, who is the *Lord from Heaven*, the *Prince of Peace*, the *Saviour* and the *Deliverer*, who is made manifest in Power, and condemneth the Transgressor, and slayeth the Enmity, and raiseth the Life out of Death; and this is he *who kills and makes alive*, even the God who is Light, who brings down one, and sets up another; who makes War against the Mighty, and gives Peace to the Poor, and besides him there is none; he searcheth mans heart, and tryeth the reins, and knoweth the thoughts, and every creature is manifest in his sight, who gives to every one according to his doings; and this is he who standeth in the Congregation of the Righteous, even in the midst of us, and sitteth Judge among the gods; unto him must all the gods of the Earth bow, and the inhabitants of the Earth must tremble before him, and unto him every tongue shall confess, and the light in every man shall answer when he ariseth to Judgement, who is a swift Witness to condemn or justifie all the children of men upon the face of the Earth.

This is the God of Truth whom we worship, and who will be worshipped in spirit and in truth; who is the God of *Abraham* and his seed for ever, and with him there is no change nor shadow of turning; and he hath made known his Name and his Power, and his wonderful works in this his day, and hath caused his Voice to be heard in the Earth; and the dead have heard, and now live.

And his Name is exalted on high amongst all that fear him and obey his Voice; and he hath given his Son a Covenant of Light, who lighteth every man that cometh into the world with the true Light of Life, or Condemnation; that all who receive him may come to the knowledge of the Father, *whom to know is life eternal*.

And this is the Christ, the Saviour, in whom we have believed, and which we preach, who is *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*, the Foundation of God which cannot be moved; *The Word of God* is his Name, and there is no other Name given for Salvation: *This is the that [illegible]*

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and lives for evermore, and there is no other to be looked for; if any preach any other, let him be accurſed; and if any bring any other Meſſage, let them not be received.

And all you who have believed in this Chriſt Jeſus, who is the Light of the World, and who have received the knowledge of this God, who is Light himſelf, and that ſearcheth your hearts, I exhort you, and warn you all in his preſence that lives for ever, to wait upon him, and to fear before him, and to walk with him for ever in uprightneſs of heart, which is of great price in his ſight, and forget not his righteous Judgements which he hath made known, leſt you wax fat through mercies, and rebel againſt him, and become diſobedient and gainſaying, and ſo be deſtroyed from being a People; but be ſtayed upon the Lord, and let your hearts be eſtabliſhed with Grace, and be not toſſed nor ſhaken with any wind of the Doctrines of men, which is not from the Life of God, nor reaches to the life in you, but begets into Idolatry, to worſhip other gods than he who is Light; and be not troubled at temptations nor ſufferings, nor at reproaches, nor any other thing, but ſtand in the Counſel of God, and in his long-ſuffering; and wait patiently upon him in your own meaſure of the Grace of God received, which is ſufficient to preſerve you, that Victory over Death, and over him that hath the power over it, you may receive, to trample upon all that which is contrary to the Life of God within you, and without you; neither be you troubled nor offended in Chriſt if any among you deny the Lord, and backſlide from his pure Way through an evil heart of unbelief, and ſo become diſobedient children, and vex the righteous Soul; ſuch ſhall bear their own burden and condemnation in the day of the Lord; and know, that Truth changeth not, but is the ſame for ever, though the deceitful-hearted through unbelief depart from it, and chooſe their own wayes, and deſpiſe the Counſel of the Lord, to their own deſtruction; but be ye more watchful, faithful, and valiant for the Truth upon Earth unto the end, that you may be found faithful Witneſſes unto the Name of the Lord in this crooked Generation, and

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may receive the fulfilling of the Promise of God, and may witness God with you, the *Emmanuel*, the *Saviour*, *God with us*; and this is the whole Salvation, and there is no other to be expected or witnessed than this, That God dwells in us, and walks in us, according to his Promise; and all that know this, need not go forth to the right hand or to the left, but Salvation is come unto us, he that takes away sin, and saves from it, and from condemnation; and they who witness this, are begotten by the Word of God, and born of the immortal Seed, and are new Creatures; and there is now no Condemnation, but the reward of Righteousness and Peace unto us, who are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit; and here we witness the Lord is our God, and we are his People, and he sees no sin in us who are born of him, nor remembers iniquity; but his Covenant is with us, and *the Kingdom is become the Lords*, and his dominion is set up, where God is all in all, where the Prince of darkness is cast out; and this is the end and substance of all Ministrations, which we bear witness of: And I do exhort all you who are called of God every where, patiently to wait in the Way of the Lord, and in his Judgments to receive this, and to possess it within you, that you may be worshippers of God, and doers of his Will, and may have the Witness that you are accepted of him, and may know your Calling and Election sure, where nothing that defileth can enter, but that may be taken away and removed; and Him you may feel and witness, which *Satan* hath nothing in, who is the *second Adam*, and cannot be overcome, but is greater than the *first Adam* who was overcome (though innocent) and is lost from the presence of God; but he in whom there is no sin, and who cannot transgress, comes to seek and to save that which was lost in sin, and to bring back that which was driven away by sin; and He is greater than Innocency, and overcometh the Devil, and is called the Son of God; and to him that overcometh, who is the Light of the World, is all Power given of the Father: And know Him in you all to be the greatest, who is not of the world, nor cannot bow to the Devil, (to give dominion

sion and authority over all the World, and the powers of Hell and Death, even He who sealeth up the old Dragon in perdition never more to deceive; And they who witness this, know the Election which it is not possible to deceive, or be deceived; and as every one of you have received Him who is the Lord from Heaven, so let your Faith stand in Him, and walk in Him; and let all your conversations be ordered by Him, in all pure and blameless walking in the sight of your Enemies, that it may be manifest that you are branches in Him, and that you have received power to become the Sons of God, and that you are Heirs of the Inheritance which shall not fade away. And all you that witness this, your eye is opened to see God, and you are cleansed from sin by the Word of God, and you have received the Peace with God, and glad-tydings from him in your own souls; and this is Salvation by the *second Adam*; herein be established and settled, and look not for another; for there is not any besides this Saviour and this Salvation, but if any preach another, believe them not; and if any cry, *Lo here*, and *Lo there is Christ without you*, go not after them nor follow them, but know him *within you*, which is greater than all; yea, if we our selves, or an Angel from Heaven, preach any other *Jesus* than he which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, or any other Salvation than God with us, let us be accursed; for this is the Gospel of our Salvation, *Christ Jesus within us the hope of Glory, the Power and Wisdom of God to rule and reign in us, by which we are changed from Death to Life, and translated from the power of Darkness into the Kingdom of his dear Son.*

And now all Friends and Elect of God, who are called and faithfull, you that have received this Testimony which God hath given of the Son, and which the Son hath given of the Father, which in faithfulness hath been testified in this generation, I exhort you all in the fear and counsel of the Lord, take heed to that which you have believed, and heard, and learned of the Father, which is the Truth as it is in Jesus, and shall abide forever; and be not removed from your

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hope, nor given to change, but mind the Life of God in you all, which is immortal, and is but one, and is answereth to the Lord in Judgments, and in Mercies one to another in that which is righteous and just, and witnesseth against all the works of the world, which are evil, and not wrought in God.

Ye that know this which is of the Father in you, dwell in it, and walk in it, and be not shaken out of it, nor removed from it, for it is the Way of Peace unto Everlasting Rest, where there is no sorrow, but Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the holy Ghost; and every one in particular have Salt in your selves to savour withal, that you may resist the wicked-one in all his temptations, and may not joyn to any thing which is out of Union, and contrary to the Life of God, and to the Truth which you have received; that you may never be betrayed of your hope, nor of the simplicity which is in Christ Jesus, in which the Father is well-pleased; and let the Light of the World guide you in all things, that your works may be wrought in God, never to be condemned, nor you to suffer loss; knowing this first, That none are justified by him but them that are led and guided by him, and to whom he is a Saviour, he is also a Teacher, and he is given to teach in all the wayes of Truth.

And now let your fellowship be in the Power and Life of God, and know not one another in words onely, and in shews, and in outward appearance, but witness one another in the Spirit and in the Truth, and have communion there in breaking the Bread of Life, that *Christ Jesus* may be seen to be the Head in you, and you Members to serve him, and one another, all receiving Wisdom from the Head, and Vertue from the Vine (*Christ Jesus*) that you may abound in Love, Mercy and Peace, and all the fruits of Righteousness unto the Father, and dwell in the Fear and Counsel of God, and be subject to his Will, not despising the Cross which is the Power of God, which slayes the birth that is born of the flesh, which is not heir of the Promise; but walk in the Cross daily, that your understanding may be kept open

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to try and discern all spirits, whether they be of God; and believe not every spirit, for lying spirits may arise among your selves, and go forth from the Light, who are not in the Truth, but in the feignedness and hypocrisie, with false visions and lying imaginations, handling the Word of God deceitfully, corrupting and perverting the pure Way of God, having the *Form*, but not the *Power*, having left the Power, and gone from the Light; and such utter the words of Truth without the Life, and is but as the Chaff to the Wheat, and they are to be denyed and resisted, and not joyned to, lest Innocency and Simplicity be betrayed, and your Faith made void, and so you be destroyed from the Life of God, and Death surprize you, and Darkness enter into your dwellings, and so Unbelief, Doubtings, Murmurings, and Lustings after Evil arise in you, and you be perverted from the Worship of the true God, and grieve his righteous Spirit by bowing to Idols, and following of other Lovers, and so the true God, which hath brought you out of *Egypt*, and made manifest his Power in you, be forgotten, and the Faith of his Son made shipwrack of, and your latter end be worse than the beginning, and the Name of the Lord be dishonoured by you; and then wo be unto you, his Wrath shall suddenly break out against you: Wherefore hear, and fear, and hearken unto the Word of the Lord, He hath caused his Light to shine forth, and his Voice to be heard; He hath proclaimed his Name among you, and hath caused his marvellous Light to approach, when you sate in darkness in the Land of the shadow of death; when you were lost, he sought you; and when you were driven away and scattered, he found you, and brought you home; when you were in your blood, and no eye pittyed you, he had mercy upon you, and bound you up, and healed you; when you were dead, he said unto you, Live, and it was so; when you were led captive by the Devil, under the power of Death, he brake the Chains, and set you free; and when there was none to help and to save, his own Arm brought Deliverance and Salvation, and the Way of Life and Peace he set before you.

And

And now all this hath his own Arm accompliſhed, that you ſhould be a praiſe unto him for evermore; and if you walk in the way which he hath ſet before you, and keep his Covenant which he hath made with you, and fulfill his Will, and walk in Righteouſneſs, in Love and Unity, in Meekneſs, Lowlineſs, Humbleneſs, and in Soberneſs and Watchfulneſs, and in Fear of his Name; then ſhall his Preſence never forſake you, nor his out-ſtretched Arm ceaſe to defend and preſerve you, but he ſhall go before you, and be your reward; and he ſhall be your God, and you ſhall be his People; and you ſhall dwell in him, and he ſhall be your hiding-place; and he will be to you a Father, and you ſhall be his Children, and his Bleſſing and Peace ſhall remain in your habitations for ever and ever: but if any of you turn aſide for a thing of nought after vanity, and deny the Way of Righteouſneſs, and forget the Lord, and kick againſt him, and follow the way and counſels of your own hearts, and worſhip other gods, and joyn your ſelves to ſtrangers, and commit Adultery with other Lovers, and make the Croſs of Chriſt of none effect, and turn from the Light of Chriſt *within you*, and fulfill your own wills, and the deſire of your own minds, and go out of the Fear of the Lord into the liberty of the fleſh (which is not the Liberty in Chriſt Jeſus) and ſo ſeek your ſelves, and ſtrive for maſtery to be one above another, and ſo ſurmiſe evil one againſt another, and the bond of Peace be broken, and vain contention and ſtrife appear; then ſhall the Rod of God ſmite you, and his Wrath be ſuddenly kindled againſt you, and you ſhall not proſper, but his Countenance ſhall be hid, and the Terrors of the Lord, and Lamentations ſhall poſſeſs you, and Peace ſhall flee far from you, and ſuch ſhall be caſt out of the Camp of the Lord, and ſhall have no part in the Inheritance, but the Bleſſing ſhall depart, and the Curſe ſhall enter till utter deſtruction; yea, and if any of you deny the Lord, unto whom his Way is made manifeſt, he will deny you, and you ſhall have no part in him, but Vengeance in flames of fire will he render upon the diſobedient, manifold more than if his Love and way of Peace had not been

made manifeſt to you, and the Light of the World is your Condemnation for evermore, if you turn from it.

And in the preſence of the living God, I warn you all, Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which brings any other Meſſage than what hath been declared from the beginning; believe not him which cryes, *Lo here*, or *Lo there is Chriſt without you*, or that draweth from the meaſure of *Chriſt within you*, to hearken to, or to be taught by any other thing; for that ſpirit is not of the Father, which preacheth any other Chriſt, than he that is the Light of the World, and lighteth every man that cometh into the World, and which bringeth any other Meſſage than that God is light in himſelf, and hath given his Son a Light into the World: And this is the true Teſtimony of the Father and of the Son, and he that teſtifieth any other Meſſage, is to be judged and denyed; he is not a Worſhipper of the true God, but out of the Truth, and in the Errour, and a Deceiver, and being deceived.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which miniſters to others that which it hath not learned of the Father, but hath the words without the Power, and lives not in the Power of what it miniſters forth in words, nor is not what it declares, but is in the outward ſhews, in the hypocriſie and feignedneſs, and teacheth not the Life of God, but vails and covers it; and that ſpirit is not of the Father, but is to be denied and judged, and not received nor believed.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which is at liberty in the fleſh, and makes the Offence of the Croſs to ceaſe, which is exalted out of the Fear of the Lord, in the liberty of the earthly, which crucifies the Life, and darkens the eye; and that ſpirit will boaſt of Joy, and Peace, and experience, and knowledge, and ſpeak high words in the airy mind, and that would lead you out of your conditions to glory above the

the Groſs, till you be paſt feeling of the Life; and that ſpirit begets into feignedneſs and hypocriſie, and into the love of the world which paſſes away; and beware of that ſpirit, for it is not of the Father, but to be condemned.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which is haſty, and forward, and raſh, for that goeth out of God's Counſel, and betrayes the Juſt, and ſtrives to be greateſt, and to be above the weak, and deſpiſeth him, and would be Maſter, and not a ſervant, and would rule, and not be ruled in the meek and lowly Government of Chriſt, and that ſpirit will judge out of thoughts raſhly and unſavourily, and condemn another in ſecret in what it ſelf is guilty of; beware of that ſpirit, for it is not of God, but to be judged with the Life of God.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which ſeeks it ſelf to have praiſe of men, and to be accounted, and would beget into diviſions, and would have parties to it ſelf, and reſpects perſons, and glories in gifts, and knowledge, and parts, more than in the Giver, and admires men more than He that gives the encreaſe, and feeds of the knowledge in that nature which is to be famiſhed, and glorieth in what hath been done by it, as though it had not received power from the Lord, and is exalted as though it bare the root, not knowing that it is born of the root; and that ſpirit ſpends its treaſure which it received in the Father's houſe, amongſt harlots, and deſpiſeth the poor, and ſeeks occaſion to glory over the weak, that it may be renowned; beware of that ſpirit I charge you all, for it is not of the Father, nor to be followed, but to be condemned, and reſiſted unto death.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which preacheth not from the meaſure of God received, and to be manifeſt to it in you, and approved by it only, but ſpeaks above the meaſure, and reaches not to the meaſure of the Grace of God; that ſpirit leads after words and outward ſhews, and ſayes

Peace to the Rich, and Judgment to the Poor, and the Word of God is not divided aright, but heals up falſly, and daubs with untempered mortar, and cryes Peace where God ſpeaks War; and cryes War where God ſpeaks Peace; and that ſpirit is a deceiver and a betrayer, and feeds but the ear, and not the Life, and darkens the Counſel of God by words without knowledge, and is not of the Father, but of the world, and to be denyed and condemned.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which is not ſubject to rule and order, and is not meek and diligent, and long-ſuffering, but heady, high and untoward, ſeeking occaſions againſt the Juſt, and watcheth for evil; that ſpirit will not bear reproof, but is idle, ſloathful and careleſs, ſurmiſing evil, and backbiting, and conforms in appearance, making a fair ſhew, but it is not unto God, as appearing unto man; and that would go, and is not called; and will not go when it is called; and ſeeks for the praiſe of men more than God; and that is fruitleſs ground, and brings forth bryars and thorns in ſecret, which choaks the Seed of God: beware of that ſpirit, it is a lover of this world; have no fellowſhip with it, for it is not of the Father, but a deceiver, and is to be denyed.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which is toſſed and unſetled, and is given to change, and is not eſtabliſhed with Grace; that is an Adulterer, and hunts for the precious life, and ſeeks by flattery to beguile the Innocent; that ſpirit is zealous for a moment, but is ſoon overcome, and is ſtony ground, and brings not forth fruit to perfection, but withers, and its latter end is worſe than the beginning. That ſpirit is exalted into preſumption, and in peace, and caſt into deſperation and trouble, and the double-mind lodgeth in it, and it is unſtable in all its wayes, and is a ground for the ſeed of Satan, and to it there is no peace from God; and beware of that ſpirit, for it is not of the Father, but to be condemned.

Again;

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit, neither follow it, which is more zealous than knowing, whoſe *zeal is without true knowledge*, and ſtands in that which is corrupted; that flouriſheth for a moment, but cannot endure for ever; it hath no root in it ſelf, but is furious and paſſionate, and not long-ſuffering: that ſpirit knows not it ſelf, but would devour its adverſary with bitterneſs, and not gain'd by long-ſuffering; that is not the Spirit of the Father, but muſt be denied in all.

Again;

Believe not that ſpirit which draws back into the world, into its luſts, liberty, and faſhions which paſſe away; that ſpirit forgets God, and draws back, for his ſoul hath no pleaſure in it, but is vexed with it, where the Croſs is made of none effect, and the falſe liberty is walked in, which murders the Life; that ſpirit is of the Devil, and is to be condemned.

And now all Friends of God every-where, who know him and are known of him, whom he hath gathered out of this untoward Generation; be diligent in your Callings, and keep your Meetings in faithfulneſs, waiting upon the Lord, that you all may receive of his Fulneſs to be filled with it, and may be nourihed up unto himſelf, as Trees of Righteouſneſs, the planting of his own right-hand, to ſpread forth his Name and Glory, as a People ſaved by him, and unto whom there is none like beſides. And this know and underſtand, that ſpirit is not of the Father which confeſſeth not the Son to be come in the fleſh, who deſtroyes the works of the Devil, and takes away ſin; and that Spirit believe and follow which condemns ſin, and deſtroyes it, and takes it away, and ſo gives Peace with God in your own Conſciences, and leads you into all Truth, and keeps you from all Evil: and you that witneſs this, the Son you know, and the Father you know to dwell with you, and in you; and this is the *firſt* and the *laſt*; believe in him, and follow him, and look not for any other; and in this the Father of Life and Glory, whoſe

Dominion

Dominion is without beginning and end, ſtabliſh you, and preſerve you, *Amen*, and *Amen*.

I a beloved Brother, and a Companion unto all the Saints in ſuffering, and in rejoycing, who have received this Teſtimony from the Father, do with it in this Epiſtle ſalute the whole Church in the Love of the Father, as moved of Him by his Eternal Spirit, who beareth witneſs to me that we are of God, and the whole world lies in wickedneſs, and that all that are of God heareth us. And this Teſtimony I give of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Truth, and of the Salvation of which I am made a Witneſs, and againſt all that ever ſhall deny it, or turn from it: And this is thus far the words of my Teſtimony by the Spirit of the Father, not knowing when the time comes it may be finiſhed, and the night may come when no man can work.

Edward Burrough.

THE END.

POST-

POST-SCRIPT.

FOraſmuch as many who are partakers of the Father's Love, manifeſted in his Son in meaſure, in whom theſe Epiſtles have found greeting, With the ſame Love in the upright-hearted, to which it is a ſure Teſtimony of Love from Life it ſelf, to the quickning, ſtrengthning, confirming, and arming of all ſuch as have in the Love, Life and Power, heard, received and believed the Truth, as it hath been declared, and is in Jeſus, in whom our Faith is ſtanding; which Faith worketh by the Love ſhed abroad in our hearts, wherein we are reaching after each other in the ſameneſs of Love, which is the bond of our Unity, wherein we are called together to be joyned in the purity, power and life of one Faith and Love, therein to bear Teſtimony (as we have in our meaſures received) to, and of the Everlaſting Truth; wherein finding theſe Epiſtles of ſuch manifold ſervice to the whole Body, both for inſtruction, exhortation, ſtrengthning and forewarning, whereby there is or may be a ſafe arming againſt all deceit and deceivable ſpirits; Hence it is from the earneſt love and deſire ſtirred up in many here among us that are faithful, whereby this they put in print, that thereby the ſervice may reach unto all who are worthy thereof in theſe Nations, for to them is it ſent, who are called of God; Therefore in the Fear of the Lord let every one of us, to whom this comes, walk worthy of the Fathers Love, Grace, Mercy and Peace, whereinto we are called in one Body, of which Chriſt is Head.

A. D.